State	Percentage of Dealerships to be awarded to ST category	Balance % to be awarded to Open Category
Arunachal Pradesh	70	30
Meghalaya	80	20
Nagaland	80	20
Mizoram	90	10

Division of LPG Agencies on Compassionate Grounds

†1626. SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2745 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 15th April, 1999 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that compassionate based partnership agencies available to Scheduled Castes are also included in said agency;

(b) if so, whether a request for division of the same has been received; and

(c) if so, by when and what are the reasons for delay in decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (c) Out of the 5 LPG distributorships mentioned in reply to the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2745 for 15.4.99, which have requested Government for bifurcation of their LPG distributorship, M/s Anand Gas Agency, Mokama, Bihar is the only LPG distributorship awarded under 'SC' category. As per the existing policy, bifurcation of LPG distributorships is allowed under the DGR category only. The Government has not approved the request for bifurcation of the above 5 LPG distributorships.

Seismic Survey in Bengal Basin

1627. SHRI MD. SALIM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kingston's recommendation for exploration in Bengal basin included 3D Seismic Survey of 72 Sq. Km. to the South-West in line with the 3D Seismic Survey at Amtala;

(b) whether it also included 72 Sq. Km. area of 3D offshore Seismic Survey;

(c) if so, the progress of the job as on data on (a) and (b) and the assessment of the job, carried out so far; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the justification of removal of one field party from West Bengal by ONGC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (d) Mr. J. Kingston, a foreign consultant, had made certain recommendations regarding future exploration in Bengal basin including acquisition of 3D seismic data and the areas suggested were as follows:

— Over a 72 sq. km. area to the South-West of Ichapur

— Over a 72 sq. km. area to the South-West of Amtala

— Over a 72 sq. km. offshore area subject to confirmation of presence of certain geological feature through other studies.

As a follow up ONGC has acquired about 118 sq. km. of 3D data in Ichapur area. However, no 3D data has been acquired in the other two recommended areas. ONGC in its own assessment does not feel that the identified areas would need any further seismic input. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) has six different business centres. The Central Regional Business Centre (CRBC), looks after Exploration and Production operations of basins in the States of West Bengal, Tripura and Bihar. Three seismic parties in operation with CRBC are deployed to different areas as per technical requirement and ONGC's exploration strategy. As per the present deployment plans during 1999-2000, two of the three seismic parties in CRBC are to operate in Tripura area, leaving behind one for operation in West Bengal.